

Shoplifting incident spells strike three, and life in prison

- [Post a comment](#)

- [Print](#)



By The Yakima Herald-Republic

Saturday, April 3, 2010

YAKIMA - A 62-year-old man will spend the rest of his life in prison as a three-strikes offender as a result of a shoplifting incident at the Sears store in The Valley Mall more than two years ago during which shots were fired at two security guards.

Elodio Rizo was sentenced Friday in Yakima County Superior Court on convictions for one count of first-degree robbery and two counts of first-degree assault, said Deputy Prosecutor Tamara Hanlon. A jury convicted Rizo of the charges in October 2009.

Rizo entered the store on Nov. 25, 2007, with Julie Pina, 53, who shoplifted three bottles of perfume, valued at \$165, according to a Union Gap police report.

The Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney's office said in a news release Friday that Rizo selected the perfume to be stolen, had Pina conceal the items and serve as her lookout.

When two loss prevention officers attempted to detain Pina, Rizo fired two shots at the officers. Neither was hit.

The couple fled the scene but were apprehended later.

Pina pleaded guilty in August to one count of second-degree robbery and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, Hanlon said.

Rizo's two prior strikes were both second-degree assaults. He also has convictions for assault in violation of a no-contact order, third-degree assault, violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and illegal entry into the United States after deportation, according to the release from the prosecutor's office.